

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling a drive train for a motor vehicle, with the drive train $[(10)]$ having

- a drive machine $[(14)]$,
- an automatic gearwheel variable-speed transmission $[(19)]$,
- an automatic clutch $[(12)]$, which is arranged between the drive machine $[(14)]$ and the gearwheel variable-speed transmission $[(19)]$, and
- at least one control device $[(49)]$,

wherein

- the control device $[(49)]$ makes a selection, as a function of selection rules and vehicle parameters and/or operating variables of the motor vehicle as to whether the clutch $[(12)]$ will remain engaged or disengaged when a gear change takes place from an original gear to an intended gear in the gearwheel variable-speed transmission $[(19)]$, and
- when a gear change is carried out with the clutch $[(12)]$ engaged, the rotation speed of the transmission input shaft $[(11)]$ is synchronized to the intended rotation speed in the intended gear by influencing the drive machine $[(14)]$,

characterized in that

- a gear change is carried out exclusively with the clutch $[(12)]$ disengaged

- after initial starting-up of the drive train ~~[[10]]~~ until all of the vehicle parameters which are relevant for the selection process have been determined by the control device ~~[[49]]~~,

and/or

- when a malfunction is identified in a component in the drive train ~~[[10]]~~.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

- the control device ~~[[49]]~~ carries out at test as a function of test rules to determine whether the gear change can be carried out with the clutch ~~[[12]]~~ engaged, and

- the selection depends on the result of the test.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the test can be carried out as a function of vehicle parameters and/or operating variables of the motor vehicle.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the selection and/or the test are/is carried out at least in some operating areas as a function of the intended gear for the gearwheel variable-speed transmission ~~[[19]]~~.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the selection and/or the test are/is carried out at least in some operating areas as a function of variables which describe the environment of the motor vehicle.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the vehicle parameters are variable.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gearwheel variable-speed transmission ~~[[19]]~~ has a synchronization device

(transmission brake 52) which can be driven by the control device [(49)] and by means of which a transmission input shaft [(11)] can be braked, and, when changing up with the clutch [(12)] disengaged, the control device [(49)] selects whether the synchronization device (transmission brake 52) will be driven, with the transmission input shaft [(11)] thus being braked, or whether it will not be driven.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

at the start of changing-down operations, the clutch [(12)] remains engaged and the control device [(49)]

- drives an actuating element (gear-changing actuator 48) in order to deselect the original gear,
- determines a time since the driving of the actuating element (gear-changing actuator 48),
- monitors whether the original gear has been deselected, and
- if the determined time exceeds a threshold without the original gear having been deselected, the clutch [(12)] is disengaged.

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the stated threshold is dependent

- on vehicle parameters of the motor vehicle and/or
- on operating variables of the motor vehicle and/or
- on variables which describe the environment of the motor vehicle.